ANNUAL REPORT

MONTANA.
DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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ANNUAL REPORT

K. W. BERGAN * * COORDINATOR

DECEMBER 31, 1952

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STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ANNUAL REPORT
DECEMBER 31, 1952

The State of Montana, Department of Indian Affairs has its background in a law introduced by Mr. David M. Higgins, Representative to Legislature from Glacier County. Mr. Higgins, a member of the Blackfeet Tribe and former employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, philosophized that many of the activities pertaining to the administration of Indian Affairs could move from the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs down to the state level. He felt that the administration of Indian Affairs could be brought closer to the people and become more democratic because he felt that government brought closer to the people is more democratic. He further reasoned that the integration of people of Indian blood into their own communities would be improved if their government activities were on the same basis as their fellow citizens. He also felt that the government of people of Indian blood by regulations of the Federal government tended to retard integration and improvement of the economic status of these people because the Indian people had no voice in the preparation of the regulations and the administration of these activities. The Government of this type tended to set up a dual system of government in communities with Indian people which also was the basic cause of discrimination in many communities.

Mr. Higgins introduced the following bill into Legislature and fought hard for its passage because it was quite revolutionary in its approach to the problem, and legislators were afraid of the results which could not be forseen. He, however, spent considerable time explaining its purpose and convinced his fellow legislators of the benefits to be derived. The final passage marked a milestone in the democratic solution of problems on Indian Reservations. Many states are now watching the experiment in Montana with considerable interest.

HOUSE BILL NO. 221
Introduced by Higgins

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: " AN ACT DECLARING THAT IT IS THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY OF THE STATE OF MONTANA TO FOSTER A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO PERMIT THE INDIAN CITIZENS OF MONTANA TO TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN SOCIETY AND ASSUME THE RIGHTS, DUTIES, AND PRIVILEGES OF FULL CITIZENSHIP; PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE STATE CO-ORDINATOR OF INDIAN AFFAIRS; PROVIDING FOR THE DUTIES AND EMOLUMENTS OF SUCH OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOANS TO INDIANS; AND APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT."

Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Montana;

Section 1. Whereas, a considerable portion of the citizens of the State of Montana are members of the Indian race, and,

Whereas, in the course of the past eighty years these Indian Citizens of the State of Montana have been driven from their native valleys and plains and are at present living and residing upon reservations set apart for such purposes by the United States of America, and by virtue of said isolation and supervision by the Federal Government, great problems of economic and social significance have arisen and presently exist, and that no suitable progress has been made to solve such problems by reason of the fact that the Indians and those who are attempting to aid them in the solution of their problems have never been able to present a co-ordinate and united effort in solving such problems, and

Whereas, it is hereby declared that it is the Legislative policy of this State that the best interests of the Indians will be served by the fostering of a program which is designed to establish and place our Indian citizens in a position whereby they will be able to take their rightful place in our society, and assume the rights, duties and privileges of full citizenship, it is therefore necessary that a State office of the Co-ordinator of Indian Affairs be established so that the problems of the Indians of Montana can be approached and reconciled from a state level in co-operation with the United States of America.

Section 2. The office of the State Co-ordinator of Indian Affairs is hereby created. The Co-ordinator shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of five qualified persons agreed upon by the tribal councils of the respective Indian Tribes of the State of Montana. He shall hold such office for a term of four years and shall be paid a salary of five thousand dollars ($5,000.00) per year. He shall maintain his office at the State Capitol in Helena, Montana.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the State Co-ordinator of Indian Affairs to do all necessary and proper things to carry out the legislative policy set forth in Section 1 of this act. He shall solicit rehabilitation loans from various sources for the purpose of enabling deserving Indians to become self sufficient. Interest rates on such loans shall not exceed four per cent (4%) and such loans shall be disbursed through Indian loan associations to be established on the various reservations.

He shall also do everything possible to bring about adequate housing on Indian Reservations and in general to promote the welfare of our Indian Citizens, and in doing these things he will co-operate with the Department of Indian Affairs of the United States, the United States Government and the State of Montana.

He shall acquaint himself with the problems confronting the Indians of Montana and he shall advise the legislative and executive branches of the State of Montana of such problems and shall make recommendations for the allevaiation thereof. He shall also serve the Montana delegation in the Federal Congress as an advisor and intermediary in the field of Indian Affairs.

Section 4. The State Co-ordinator shall make quarterly reports to the Governor concerning the physical and moral well-being of the Indians of the State of Montana and shall prepare a report of a similar nature to present to each legislative assembly.

Section 5. That the following sums or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and the same are hereby appropriated out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the objects and purposes hereinafter expressed for the period beginning July 1, 1951, and ending June 30, 1952.

FOR THE STATE OFFICE OF CO-ORDINATOR OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FROM THE GENERAL FUND

Salary of State Co-ordinator	$ 1.00
Salary of Stenographer	2,400.00
Administrative expenses	1,000.00
Traveling expenses	1,200.00

Section 6. That the following sums or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and the same are hereby appropriated out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the objects and purposes hereinafter expressed for the period beginning July 1, 1952, and ending June 30, 1953

FOR THE STATE OFFICE OF CO-ORDINATOR OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FROM THE GENERAL FUND

Salary of State Co-ordinator	$ 1.00
Salary of Stenographer	2,400.00
Administrative expenses	1,000.00
Traveling expenses	1,200.00

Section 7. Appropriations hereinabove provided for shall be deemed and held valid notwithstanding the provisions of the Budget Act.

Section 8. All acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ORIGIN OF INTER TRIBAL POLICY BOARD

Governor John W. Bonner called a conference of Indian people at the State Capitol in Helena, Montana, June 22, 1951 to study and submit to him a complete statement of their problems. The opening statement of Miss Mary Condon, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, illustrates the purpose and objectives of the meeting:

Opening remarks by Miss Condon:

"It is my very great pleasure to officially call the first all Montana Indian Conference to order. The idea for the conference was born, I believe, in the mind of our Indian leader in the State and our very fine Governor of the State of Montana. The purpose of this meeting is to get together and talk Indian problems and learn from each other the solutions to problems. This is the most democratic way and effective way of getting concrete and lasting results. We are very grateful to you for the time and expense and the energy which has brought you to this meeting."

The members at the meeting divided themselves into groups and rendered reports in the following areas:

1. Education
2. Employment
3. Health
4. Welfare
5. Veterans Problems
6. Federal relations
7. Public Works
8. Landless Indians

The Conference had as a visitor, Hon. N. B. Johnson, Justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma, and member of the Cherokee Tribe of that state. He was the principal speaker at the banquet for the occasion and advised with Indian groups throughout the Conference. The official records show 104 delegates in attendance. The Conference was the first of its kind in the State of Montana and marked an era of greater participation of Indian people themselves in the thinking, planning, and solution of their own problems.

The results of the June meeting found considerable favor with the people of Indian blood in the State of Montana and they requested another meeting to follow up the beginning at the meeting in June. On October 16 and 17, 1951 a group of 36 Tribal leaders met in the Governor's Reception Room in the State Capitol where Governor Bonner indicated the purpose of the meeting in his opening remarks as follows:

"It is a pleasure to call this meeting to order. The purpose of this meeting is to study and find solution to the Indian problems on the State level. The idea for this conference was born during the "First All Montana Indian Conference" held June 22 and 23. This is a non-political organization. We have Mr. Higgins to thank for helping to pass a bill in the last legislature for this organization. The purpose of this meeting also is to discuss and approve the program for the Governor's Conference which is to be held in Helena, December 12.

Governor Bonner recognized and introduced the following: Mr. Burr, Welfare Department, Dr. Thompson, Director of Public Health, Mr. M. Joe Miller, Director of Employment Service and Miss Mary M. Condon, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. He mentioned the fact that everyone has worked hard in all agencies, and that it was a sacrifice for some of these people to get down to this meeting.

Governor Bonner introduced K. W. Bergan, Coordinator of Indian Affairs. Mr. Bergan explained what the Office of the Indian Co-ordinator does. The Office has a great deal of correspondence especially for information. The Office organized the June conference as well as this meeting. Preparations are under way for the Governor's Interstate Conference in December. This Conference includes representatives from seventeen states and will be held in Helena, December 12. The contribution of Montana Indians for this meeting in December will be made today. The Governor will respect all your ideas."

The October meeting tended to acquaint the various state government agencies with the problems of Indian people and the Indian representatives became acquainted with the services available within the State government. Representatives from the departments of Health, Welfare, Employment, and Education addressed the group and questions were asked. Representatives of the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs were present and participated in the discussions.

The group then indicated a desire to form a more effective organization which was knit together by procedures for transacting business. A study was made of constitutions and a committee was selected to make a preliminary draft for approval by the Tribal Councils on the various Reservations in the State of Montana. The following officers were chosen:

Chairman - - -- - - - - - - - - - Thomas Main, Fort Belknap Reservation
First Vice-Chairman - - - - - Robert Yellowtail, Crow Reservation
Second Vice-Chairman - - - - - Leo Kennerly, Blackfeet Reservation
Secretary - - - - - - - - - - - Freda Beazley, Fort Peck Reservation

Delegates present at this historic gathering were:

Mr. James Archdale - Fort Peck Reservation - Poplar, Montana
Mr. David Buckles - Fort Peck Reservation - Poplar, Montana
Mr. Henry Archdale - Fort Peck Reservation - Poplar, Montana
Mr. Thomas Main - Fort Belknap Reservation - Hays, Montana
Mr. Frank Kirkaldie - Fort Belknap Reservation - Harlem, Montana
Mr. George Cochran - Fort Belknap Reservation - Harlem, Montana
Mrs. Freda Beazley - 119 Wyoming - Billings, Montana
Mr. Walter S. Wetzel - Box 715 - Cut Bank, Montana
Mr. Francis Guradipee - Box 427 - Browning, Montana
Mr. Bill Buffalo Hide - Blackfeet Reservation - Browning, Montana
Mr. Leo Kennerly - Blackfeet Reservation - Browning, Montana
Mr. Rufus Wallowing - Northern Cheyenne Reservation - Lame Deer, Montana
Mr. Ed Belgard - 204 Miller - Helena, Montana (Landless Indians)
Mrs. Vina Chattin - Blackfeet Reservation - Browning, Montana
Mrs. Cora Irgens - Blackfeet Reservation - Browning, Montana
Mr. Walter Morigeau - Flathead Reservation - Arlee, Montana
Mr. Stephen De Mers - Flathead Reservation - Polson, Montana
Mr. Robert Yellowtail - Crow Agency - Lodge Grass, Montana
Mr. Francis LaForge - Crow Agency - Crow Agency, Montana
Mr. Four Soul - Rocky Boy Reservation - Box Elder, Montana
Mrs. Lorena Burgess - Flathead Reservation - Perma, Montana
Mr. Eugene Little Coyote - Northern Cheyenne Reservation - Lame Deer, Montana
Mr. Dave Higgins, Blackfeet Reservation - Browning, Montana

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF

MONTANA INTER-TRIBAL POLICY BOARD

PREAMBLE

We the members of the Indian Tribes of the State of Montana, of the United States of America, invoking the Blessings of Almighty God upon our efforts in Convention assembled, in order to secure and to preserve to ourselves and our descendents, the rights under Indian Treaties with the United States and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the Laws and Constitutions of the State of Montana and the United States; to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian race; to preserve Indian cultural values; and otherwise promote the common welfare of the Indians in the State of Montana--do establish this organization and solemnly pledge our honor and devotion to and adopt the following Constitution and Bylaws:

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

The Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board shall be composed of two official delegates from each of the seven Reservations and two delegates representing the Landless Indians of Montana. Said delegates shall be appointed by their respective reservation Councils and each delegation shall be entitled to one vote. The Reservations and the Landless Indians may also appoint alternates to act in the absence of regular delegates.

ARTICLE II

The Chairman, two Vice Chairman, and Secretary Treasurer shall be elected to hold office for two years.

ARTICLE III

Any matters of business coming before this Board shall be voted on, by voice, standing, hand raising, or secret ballot as the Board shall determine on each subject. An effort shall be made to obtain unanimous agreement prior to final vote.

ARTICLE IV

It shall be the policy of the Board to followRoberts Rules of Order in the conduct of its affairs, however, said rules may be suspended to cover special cases by decision of the Chairman.

ARTICLE V

The Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board in Regular or Special Session, reserves unto itself the right to recommend to the Reservation Councils the removal for cause, any officer or member of this Board for misconduct or negligence or non diligence in connection with the duties as a Board Member as set forth in the Preamble.

ARTICLE VI

Powers, Duties, and Functions of Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board.

1. The Board shall meet on call of the Chairman as often as Tribal business demands. The Chairman shall call a meeting upon the request of the Coordinator or Governor or of a majority of the delegates. Individual Tribal Councils may recommend the calling of such meetings for good and sufficient reasons.

2. The Chairman shall have no vote unless there be a tie vote before the Board, but shall be entitled to comment on any question before the Board. No member shall take more than a period of fifteen minutes to open, or more than fifteen minutes to close an issue unless he secures unanimous consent of assembly to continue. And no member shall have more than five minutes in opposition or concurrence to the subject unless he likewise obtains unanimous consent of members.

3. It shall be the duty of this Board to study, consider, accumulate, compile, and assemble information on any phase of Indian Affairs as they may concern Montana Indians and to convey its recommendations to the Coordinator, to the Governor, to the State Legislature, to Federal, State, County Offices, to the Congress of the United States, and to others concerned, and in addition to advise the Secretary of Interior and appropriate committees of Congress in regard to all appropriation estimates or Federal Projects which may affect the Indians of Montana.

4. It is not, and shall not be, the intention of this Board to infringe upon, abrogate, or interfere with any of the respective Tribal Councils of Montana Indian Reservations in the conduct of their Tribal Affairs.

5. The Board may at its discretion and by Resolution only, delegate its authority as herein contained, but may at any time revoke such delegation of its authority by a simple majority vote. No business may be conducted except by a quorum of the member delegates. A quorum shall comprise a majority of voting member delegates.

6. Except where otherwise specified in this Constitution and Bylaws, decisions of the Board shall be by a simple majority of the votes cast.

7. The Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board shall never become an affiliate of any political party.

8. No Federal or State Employee permanently employed, may hold any elective or appointive position on this Board.

BYLAWS

Duties of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board

ARTICLE I

1. The Chairman of the Board shall preside over all Board meetings of the Board, perform all duties of the Chairman, and exercise such authority as designated by the Board.

2. The Vice Chairmen shall assist the Chairman when called upon so to do, shall in the absence of the Chairman, preside and have such privilege as designated to the Chairman under Section 1.

3. The Secretary of the Board shall forward copies of all minutes of all meetings to the Tribal Councils of all Indian Reservations, to each member of the Baord, to the State Coordinator of Indian Affairs, to the Governor of Montana, and to any other source as directed by the Chairman or Board, and shall conduct all correspondence of the Board, keep all records and minutes of the meetings.

4. The duties of all appointed Special Committees of the Board shall be thoroughly defined by Resolution at the time of their creation or appointment.

Such Committees shall report as requested by the Board on their activities and decisions. Any business conducted by such committees shall be subject to review of the Board.

5. Order of Business

a. Call to order by Chairman
b. Roll Call
c. Reading of minutes of last meeting
d. Unfinished business
e. Reports
f. New business
g. Adjournment

6. It shall be the duty of the Chairman of the Board or those persons or person calling a business meeting to notify the delegates of such meetings at least fourteen days prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE II

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the official qualified delegates at any regular or special meeting providing such amendments are submitted to and meet the approval of a majority of the Indian Tribal Councils and Landless Indians. This Constitution and Bylaws and such amendments shall carry in force and effect until ratified or rejected by a majority of the Tribal Councils and Landless Indians of Montana. Such ratification or rejection is limited in time to ninety days from the adoption or date hereof this Constitution and Bylaws of this Board.

ARTICLE III

RATIFICATION OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

This Constitution and attached Bylaws when adopted by a majority of the official delegates attending at which time the Constitution and Bylaws is presented shall be binding until ratified or rejected by a majority of the Indian Tribal Councils and the Landless Indians of Montana. This Constitution and Bylaws must be ratified by a majority of the Indian Tribal Councils and the Landless Indians of Montana.

The first Official meeting held by the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board after its organization came November 26-27, 1951. The following resolutions were adopted at this meeting:

Resolution No. 1

Resolution on Discrimination

Be it resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board urges the repeal of all Federaldiscriminatorylaws discrimination against Indians including specificially the laws forbidding purchase or sale by Indians of ammunition, liquor, livestock, clothing and various other articles, and further urges the repeal of all other discriminatory laws and the enactment of such state laws that may effectively put an end to discrimination in employment and places of public accommodations.

Resolution No. 2

Resolution on Rehabilitation Loans

Be it resolved that it is the policy of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board that adequate Federal funds be provided for rehabilitation loans at a reasonable rate of interest and be it further resolved that in further pursuance of this policy the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board endorses the provisions of sec.3 of Montana House Bill 221.

Resolution No. 3

Resolution on Rights of Citizenship

Be it resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board endorses the appeal made by the legislature of Montana to the President and Congress of the United States and to the Secretary of Interior "that controls which hinder the rights of Indian citizens to spend their own money, to lease their own lands, to hire their own attorneys and to run their own business should be promptly eliminated," and be it further resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board respectfully protests against activities of the Bureau of Indian Affairs designed to influence the conduct of local elections on the reservations.

Resolution No. 4

Resolution on Extension on Time for Settlement of Indian Claims

Be it resolved that it is the recommendation of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board that the time for filing Indian claims be extended to August 13, 1953.

Resolution No. 5

WHEREAS, the government of the United States has a program for public school building facilities in federally impacted areas through Public Law 815, and
WHEREAS, the sum of $90,000,000.00 was appropriated for this purpose by our last Congress and not any of this amount was allocated for public school building facilities on Indian Reservations in the State of Montana even though Public Law 815 specifically states that school districts on Indian Reservations are to participate in this program, and
WHEREAS, there are 25,000 people of Indian blood, a considerable amount of tax-exempt Indian lands, and 3,000 children with residence on these lands in

Resolution No. 5 Continued

74 school districts in the State of Montana and the need for school building facilities is extremely urgent in many of these school districts due to over-crowded classrooms and sub-standard school facilities, and
WHEREAS, the allocation of these funds by the Office of Education, Department of Federal Security, has resulted in a definite discrimination against the oldest and most moral obligation that the Federal Government has in these United States,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board go on record as protesting this discrimination and requests Congress to amend Public Law 815 so that needy school districts on Indian Reservations with deplorable school facilities be able to participate in these allocations along with other federally impacted school districts.

Resolution No. 6

Resolutions on Liquor Laws

RESOLVED: That the discriminatory liquor laws of the Federal Government and the State of Montana and other laws discriminating against Montana Indians should be repealed without delay, and that such repeal should not be made conditional upon state taxation, the elimination of tribal law and order codes, or any other surrender of Indian rights.

Resolution No. 7

Resolution on Children Dormitories

WHEREAS, we have been advised that the Cut Bank Indian Boarding School on the Blackfeet Reservation is to be closed down, now therefore,

Be it resolved that it is the recommendation of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board that the Federal Government give financial aid to the Educational Department of Montana for the purpose of building and maintaining a modern dormitory in the town of Browning for orphans, children from broken homes, and children living in isolated areas, of Blackfeet blood, who will then be able to attend state public schools.

Resolution No. 8

Resolution on Tribal Funds in United States Treasury

Be it resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board respectfully requests the Treasury Department of the United States to submit quarterly reports to the Tribal Councils of Montana Indian Reservations clearly setting forth a detailed financial statement showing the monies on deposit in the United States Treasury to the credit to the Tribe involved and the source from which such funds originated.

Resolution No. 9

WHEREAS, Congress for more than a hundred years has been enacting laws guaranteeing Indians preference in Indian Bureau employment, even to the extent of

Resolution No. 9 Continued

waiving all Civil Service requirements for Indians, and
WHEREAS the Indian Bureau persistently violates these laws and, instead of giving Indians preference in employment, discriminates against them, and
WHEREAS a recent study conducted by Michigan State College and the National Indian Institute shows that such discrimination against Indians exists with respect to efficiency ratings and salaries, so that Indians who are college graduates receive starting salaries of about one half the average starting salary for white college graduates in the Indian Bureau,
NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board urges the Governors Inter-State Council and the Congress of the United States to take whatever corrective measures may be necessary to end these violations of Federal law, and to secure to Indians a fair chance to work in the service of their own people.

Resolution No. 10

Resolution on Tribal Funds

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Montana has urged the enactment of the Murray-Ecton-D'Ewart-Mansfield bill (H.R. 1936, H.R. 2124, S.R. 745) giving the Indian Tribes of Montana control over their own tribal incomes, and
WHEREAS, the Interior Department has long pledged its support to such legislation but the Indian Bureau is now actively opposing the pending bill, in order to perpetuate its own financial control over the Montana tribes.
NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board hereby endorses the recommendation of the Montana Legislative and urges the Governors' Inter-State Council on Indian Affairs and the President of the United States, the Congress, and the Secretary of the Interior to give their backing to the pending Murray-Ecton-D'Ewart-Mansfield Bill.

Resolution No. 11

Relief to Emergency

WHEREAS, conditions of terrible suffering have repeatedly occurred to Montana Indians with Indians dying of cold or starvation,
WHEREAS, the Indian Bureau has not only failed to provide adequate preventive or relief measures to avoid such suffering, but on the contrary has denied the existence of such conditions and denounced and slandered good friends of the Indian, including the Governor of Montana, and the Sisters of Providence, who have tried to provide emergency relief,
NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board appeals to the Governors Inter-State Council, the Congress of the United States, and the President to take such corrective measures as may put an end, once and for all, to the official contempt that is shown by the Billings Area Office for Indian Suffering.

Resolution No. 12

Resolution on Roads

WHEREAS, the inadequacy of roads on the Montana Indian reservations results in excluding Indians from proper markets for their produce, proper schooling for their children, and proper health services for their sick and injured, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has not only failed to provide, adequate

Resolution No. 12 Continued

roads, and to keep them clear in periods of heavy snow, but has interfered with efforts of the State and Counties of Montana to maintain and improve reservation roads,
NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board respectfully appeals to the Governors' Inter-State Council and to the Congress of the United States to help bring about needed improvements in our Indian roads, and proper maintenance of such roads in emergencies, and adequate appropriations therefore to put an end to petty interferences by the Indian Bureau with State Road Department efforts to help our people.

Resolution No. 13

Resolution on Indian Bureau Budgets

WHEREAS, The Indian Bureau is constantly expanding its expenditures for useless and unwanted supervisory activities and reducing its expenditures for essential services, such as health and education,
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board respectfully appeals to the President and Congress of the United States and the Governors Inter-State Council on Indian Affairs to intercede on behalf of the Indians of Montana to see that moneys needed for essential services of health and education are not diverted to useless jobs which are set up for the purpose of telling Indians, generally at great distances, how to spend their own money or use or lease their onw land or run their own business.

Resolution No. 14

Resolution on Indian Claims

WHEREAS, the Indian Claims Commission was set up in 1946 with the promise that all outstanding Indian claims would be settled on the basis of fair and honorable dealings without regard to legal technicalities, and
WHEREAS, in an increasing number of cases this objective is not being carried out.
NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board respectfully urges the Governors' Inter-State Council on Indian Affairs to initiate such legislative or other steps as may be required so that the promise of the Indian Claims Act will not be just one more in a long list of broken Government promises.

Resolution No. 15

Indian Bureau Appointments

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has been talking for many decades about letting the Indians take over the management of Indian Affairs,
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board endorses a bill designed to accomplish this purpose, reading as follows:

A BILL

To Allow Indians a Voice in the Filling of Indian Bureau Positions.

A Bill Continued

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That whenever the Governor of any state shall certify to the Secretary of the Interior that all of the Indian tribes located in the said state have agreed to establish a representative council representing all the said tribes, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to submit to the said council the names of all persons holding positions in the Indian Bureau in the said state (including every employee who spends more of his official time in that state than in any other state) and to advise the said council from time to time, of changes, or contemplated changes, in the said positions and the personnel so employed.

Sec. 2. If the said council after public hearing, finds that any person so employed is not efficiently rendering needed services, and, upon the basis of such a finding, recommends the separation of such person or recommends the withdrawl of a proposed appointment, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to carry out such recommendation.

Sec. 3. When Governors representing states and territories in which more than half of the Indians of the United States reside have made the certifications referred to in section 1 of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall advise the President of this fact. Thereafter no person shall be eligible for the office of Commissioner, Associate Commissioner, or Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs who has not been approved by representatives of a majority of the Indians who are represented in the said councils.

Resolution No. 16

Resolution on Indian Hospitals

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs has asked Congress to pass legislation which would give him the power to give away Indian hospitals without the consent of the Indian concerned.
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board urges the Montana delegation in Congress and the Governors Inter-State Council Indian Affairs to resist any such effort to give the Commissioner of Indians Affairs any opportunity to put into actions any such policy that would jeopordize the welfare of Indians or limit or curtail in any manner whatsoever medical, hospital and health services to which Indians are entitled.

Resolution No. 17

Resolution on Irrigation

WHEREAS, the Indians on serveral reservations in Montana have been forbidden by the Billings Area Directors to use their own water for irrigation purposes unless they pay; and
WHEREAS, the Billings Area Director has refused to follow the Act of Congress (25 U.S. Code, sec. 385) providing for cancelation of O. & M. charges that have been assessed against Indian land where water has never been used, and individual Indian land-owners have been unjustly charged for bills that the Indian Bureau should have collected from lessees, and

Resolution No. 17 continued

WHEREAS, the Billings Area Director has published an order in the Federal Register purporting to abolish the right of indigent Indians, guaranteed by special act of Congress (25 U.S. Code sec.385) to use their own water free of any charge, and when the Billings Area Director was notified on July 19, 1951, that he had no right to repeal an act of Congress, and his order in the Federal Register was over-ruled by the Acting Secretary of the Interior, he refused to advise irrigation ditch riders that his illegal order had been over-ruled, and he is still enforcing his illegal order and denying indigent Indians the right to use their own water, which has flowed unused to flood down river cities.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board urges the Secretary of the Interior.

1. To cancel without further delay all charges on lands that cannot be irrigated.
2. To cancel without further delay all charges that the Indian Bureau should have collected from lessons.
3. To see that the Billings Area Director carries out the laws of Congress and the orders of the Interior Department guaranteeing to indigent Indians the right to use their own water without paying any charges to the Indian Bureau.

And be it further resolved that the Congress of the United States be requested to conduct a thorough investigation of the conduct of irrigation projects by the Indian Bureau of all Reservations when such projects exist in Montana

Resolution No. 18

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association has unanimously passed a resolution attached hereto in regard to health services furnished Indians.

WHEREAS, it appears that the health services now supplied Indians by the Indian Bureau is inadequate and are not equitably distributed.

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board recommends that the responsibility for and the supplying of medical, hospital and health services to the several Indian Reservations and to the Indians be taken away from the Indian Bureau and transferred to the United States Public Health Service and the respective states be permitted to participate in the health program to the extent they may wish, but such participation shall not relieve the United States Public Health Service of its primary responsibility towards Indians.

Be it further resolved, that if a transfer of health responsibility is made, then appropriations be made to the Public Health Service in sufficient amount to carry on the intent and purpose of the service to be given so that no additional burden be placed upon the respective states.

Resolution
Adopted unanimously by the Governing Council, APHA
San Francisco, California, 1951

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Indian Affairs is responsible for the operation of 62 hospitals in Continental United States and Alaska for the exclusive care of American Indians and is obligated to staff these hospitals with physicians and nurses to provide adequate public health services, medical and hospital care for the protection and promotion of the health of Indians, and

Resolution Continued

WHEREAS, The low salaries paid physicians serving in Indian hospitals under civil service appointments; the isolation of Indian service stations where consultant service is unavailable; the lack of postgraduate training to prepare physician employees for Specialty Boards, and other factors have made it impossible for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to recruit professional personnel to adequately staff Indian hospitals at any time over a period of many years, and
WHEREAS, None of the 62 hospitals now operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs is recognized by the American Medical Association for the training of internes or otherwise as teaching hospitals, and
WHEREAS, The lack of adequate medical care and public health and hospital facilities for the care of Indians is contributing to unusually high disease and death rates among the American Indians as a racial group; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That the American Public Health Association endorses and recommends the transfer, by legislative action, of all health activities of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the United States Public Health Service, the public (field) health services to be made a responsibility of the respective states in which Indians reside, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs hospitals to be staffed and operated by the Public Health Service as United States Public Health Service hospitals.

Resolution No. 19

Resolution of the Landless Indians of Montana

WHEREAS, A group of Indians in Montana have been unlawfully deprived and excluded from any and all rights, priviledges, benefits, and of the equal opportunities derived from their native land, and which have been extended to other Tribes of American Indians and whereas this, has resulted in a group now known as the Landless Indians of Montana.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Landless Indians of Montana are American Indians for all intents and purposes, and are not subjects of any foreign nation and as American Indians, are lawfully entitled to all the rights, privviledges, benefits and equal opportunities that have been extended to other Tribes of American Indians. If anything like equality and justice be considered.

WHEREAS, Many members of the Landless Indians of Montana had filed allotments of land, on the Public Domains of Montana in the year of 1908 and 1909, under an act of Congress and rested under the 4th Section of the Act of February 8th 1887--24 Statue 388, which provided for making allotments on the Public Domains to Indians not residing upon any Reservation, or for whose tribe no Reservation has been provided by Treaty Act of Congress or executive orders.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that in accordance with the specification and requirements as provided under the provisions of the 4th Section of the act, under which these allotments were filed. The Landless Indians were lawfully qualified to file said allotments, as interpreted by the act. They were not residing upon any Reservation nor was any Reservation provided them by treaty act of Congress or Executive Order.

WHEREAS, That members of the Landless Indians had built on their allotments and many of them had made it their homes for 5 to 6 years, and some had gotten started in farming and stock raising before their allotments were rejected and cancelled through the recommendation of the Indian Bureau and on the grounds that the applicants forsaid allotments were not affiliated with any Tribe of Indians.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that said Landless Indians, were unlawfully deprived and excluded from their allotments of land to which they were lawfully entitled,

Resolution No. 19 Continued

by virtue of an act of Congress and that said cause for the cancellation of said allotments were based upon improper findings and that said allotments were not rejected nor cancelled under any law or act of Congress; but by the mere recommendation of the Indian Bureau without any court review or due process of law before anyone can be deprived out of any rights or property.
WHEREAS, the Landless Indians of Montana had from time to time asked our State Representives of both Houses of the Senate and Congress for an appropriation of money for the Landless Indians, but on every occasion had failed to do so.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that in consideration of the facts as herein submitted by resolution, our Landless Indians having been unlawfully deprived and excluded from any and all rights as American Indians to which they were lawfully entitled under the Indian laws and treaties of the United States. Our Landless Indian feels justified in asking for recognition and appropriation of money for the rehabilitation of their group

Resolution No. 20

Resolution on Vocational Education and Scholarship Program

BE IT RESOLVED, That it is the policy of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board that the Federal Government and the State of Montana in cooperation should establish a Vocational Education Program that will enable Indian youth to take suitable jobs, a program that will provide higher education for Indians, and an educational program.
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State of Montana be allowed to allocate a fair share of allotted Federal school funds to meet the necessary expansion and improvement of inadequate or dangerous school structures available to Indians, and the Federal Government make such appropriations available to the State of Montana.

Resolution No. 21

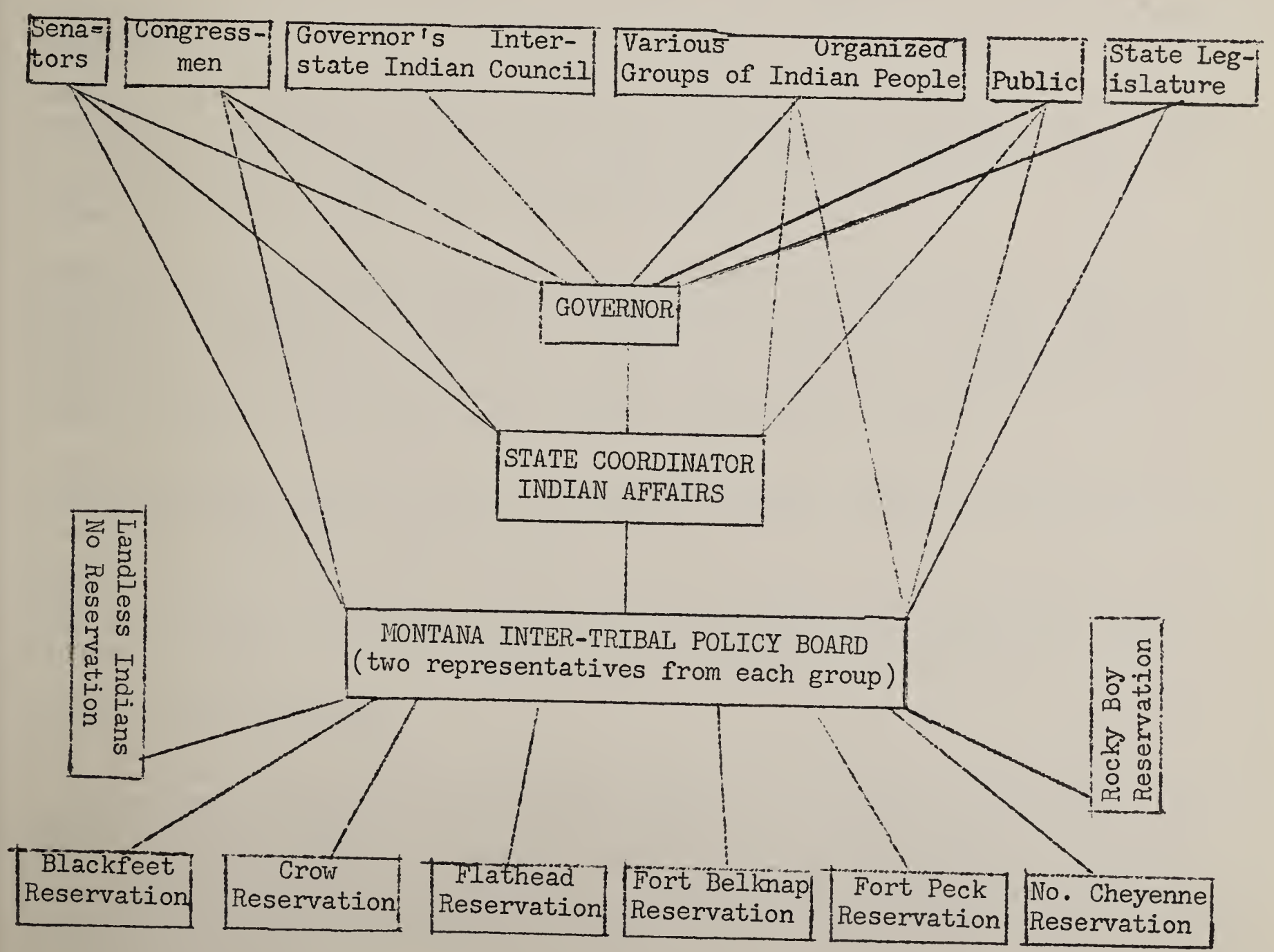
For Representation on Draft Boards

WHEREAS, It should be the duty of every draft board whose field of operation covers and encompasses Indian communities and Reservations, to play fairly with the Indian population of Montana and exhibit no race discrimination towards them in the matter of draft inductions and wanted deferments of their eligible young man for war duty in the Nation's Armed Forces and in which matter to date they have excelled in proportion to their population all other race groups in the United States in the number of fighting men sent to the armed forces of our country, and
WHEREAS, To insure a just, fair and equitable treatment of all Indian eligibles for induction into the armed forces of the United States, it obviously is necessary that the right of the Indians of Montana be recognized by the appointment of Indians to serve on each and every draft board whose field of operation encompases Indian communities and reservations in Montana therefore
BE IT RESOLVED, By the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board meeting the 27th day of November at Helena, Montana, that it petitions the Honorable John W. Bonner, Governor of the State of Montana that he use his high office to correct wrongs which the Indians of Montana have suffered and been subjected to since the drafts of World War I.

ORGANIZATION CHART OF THE MONTANA INTER-TRIBAL POLICY BOARD

The Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board is composed of two representatives from each of the groups indicated on the bottom of this chart. The Policy Board sets up programs on which the various groups find agreement and common ground. In this manner a program of united action and policy is determined and it also reflects the point of view of the 25,000 Indians represented by this group.

The Inter-Tribal Policy Board is organized with officers, constitution, and by-laws. The Coordinator of Indian Affairs is created by state law and appropriation from legislature. Any Tribal Council or group of people of Indian blood can initiate proposals for consideration by the Inter-Tribal Policy Board. This organization is in operation in the State of Montana and it is working.



This meeting defined more clearly the purpose and objectives of the Inter-Tribal Policy Board and oriented its thinking in the direction which seemed the most desirable to pursue. It also gave the Inter-Tribal Policy Board a program to present to the Governors' Interstate Indian Council meeting in Helena.

The Governors' Interstate Indian Council held its annual meeting in Helena, December 10-11, 1951. This group is composed of two official representatives from sixteen states with large Indian populations and Indian problems. The meeting in Helena had representation from Arizona, California, Idaho, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Honored guests included, Hon. Walter J. Kohler, Governor of the State of Wisconsin and Hon. N. B. Johnson, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahom. Governor John W. Bonner, of the State of Montana was host. A large number of guests, included people interested in problems of Indian people, came from various states including New York City, Washington, D C and various Indian groups throughout the United States.

The meeting discussed many of the problems confronting Indian people, an exhaustive study of Federal legislation pertaining to problems of Indian people, a description of the Montana program by Stephen De Mers of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board, and the presentation of the United States Public Health report for people of Indian blood by Dr. C. G. Carlyle Thompson executive officer of the Montana State Board of Health. This report is as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Indian Affairs is responsible for the operation of 62 hospitals in Continental United States and Alaska for the exclusive care of American Indians and is obligated to staff these hospitals with physicians and nurses to provide adequate public health services, medical and hosptial care for the protection and promotion of the health of Indians, and

WHEREAS, The low salaries paid physicians serving in Indian hospitals under civil service appointments; the isolation of Indian service stations where consultant service is unavailable; the lack of postgradutate training to prepare physician employees for specialty boards, and other factors have made it impossible for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to recruit professional personnel to adequately staff Indian hospitals at any time over a period of many years, and

WHEREAS, None of the 62 hospitals now operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs is recognized by the American Medical Association for the training of internes or otherwise as teaching hospitals, and

WHEREAS, The lack of adequate medical care and public health and hospital facilities and services for the care of Indians is contributing to unusually high disease and death rates among the American Indians as a racial group,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers endorses and recommends the transfer, by legislative actions, of all health activities of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the United States Public Health Service, the public (field) health services to be made a responsibility of the respective states in which Indians reside, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs hospitals to be staffed and operated by the Public Health Service as United States Public Health Service hospitals, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the president, Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, appoint a special committee of the Association to encourage, foster, promote, and secure implementation of the Association's expressed policy on Indian health services and secure the introduction of necessary legislation in the January 1952 meeting of the Congress.

That the Conference of State Governors be advised of and requested to support the expressed policy of the Association, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That copies of this resolution, together with a supporting statement, be transmitted to the: American Medical Association, National Health Council, National Tuberculosis Association, National Congress of American Indians, Governors' Interstate Conference on Indian Affairs, American Public Health Association, Association on American Indian Affairs, and governors of each state and territory.

* * *

At a meeting of the Inter Tribal Policy Board held February 18 and 19, 1952, Robert Yellowtail, Vice Chairman of the Montana Inter Tribal Policy Board presented a plan for the appointment of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to remove this office from politics and give some continuity to a program for the administration of the problems confronting peoole of Indian blood.

S. 2619 and H. R. 7614
82nd CONGRESS
2nd SESSION

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
April 28, 1952

Mr. Mansfield (by request) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To allow the Indian tribes a voice in the appointment of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 462 of the Revised Status Statutes, as amended, is amended by adding at the end thereof a new sentence as follows: "No person shall be appointed as Commissioner of Indian Affairs unless prior to the nomination of such person to such office his name shall have been submitted to the tribal councils of all tribes or bands of Indians in the continental United States, including Alaska, which are recognized as indentifiable tribes or bands by the Secretary of the Interior, and his appointmentto such office approved by a majority of such tribal councils."

LANDLESS INDIAN RESOLUTION
Adopted February 19, 1952

A resolution supporting the claims of the Landless Indians of the State of Montana against the Government of the United States of America.

WHEREAS, The Landless Indians of the State of Montana have petitioned by Resolution and appealed to the President of the United States, the Senators and

Congressmen of the United States Congress to take action on recognizing the Landless Indians of Montana at this session of Congress, and

WHEREAS, The Landless Indians of Montana are members of the Little Shell Band of Chippewa Indians, known as the Turtle Mountain Band and the Pembina Band and now known as the Landless Indians of Montana, and

WHEREAS, Members of the Landless Indians of Montana had filed for allotments of land consisting of 160 acres on the public domain of Montana under an act of Congress now contained in Section 4, 24 Stat. 388 and have lived on and made improvements to said land for a period of from six to seven years; and

WHEREAS, Said allotments were cancelled by the United States Government, not under any law or act of Congress; but on the recommendation of the United States Indian Bureau, and

WHEREAS, Said Landless Indians of Montana were required to make application for membership and recognition as an Indian. Some five hundred and fifty applications were taken and passed by a committee appointed by the United States Indian Bureau of Washington D. C. and said applications were sent into Washington D. C., were passed, and approved; and

WHEREAS, Lands were acquired and purchased some thirty seven thousand acres were purchased adjoining the Rocky Boy Reservation, forty three acres were purchased in the vicinity of Great Falls, Montana, for the use and occupancy of the Landless Indians of Montana, and

WHEREAS, Census and Membership was never completed in 1936 of the Landless Indians of Montana under the Indian Reorganization Act of April 16, 1934, (48 Stat. 596) as amended by the Act of June 4th, 1936, (49Stat. 1458). If a census was taken the Landless Indians of Montana would number around six thousand counting every man, woman, and child.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we the undersigned, go on record as supporting the claims of the Landless Indians of Montana, in which they request the United States of America give them full recognition, all rights and privileges that were given to other tribes of American Indians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That we support the claims of the Landless Indians to the Allotments filed and later cancelled, and

BE IT ALSO FURTHR RESOLVED: That we support the claim of the Landless Indians to the Lands above described as lands acquired and purchased for the use and occupancy of the Landless Indians of Montana.

Landless Indians of Montana, Inc.

* The Landless Indians of Montana is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Montana.

Petition to:

The President of the United States of America and Senate and House of Representatives in Congress Assembled.

Greetings:

At a delegates meeting of the Landless Indians of the State of Montana it was decided to petition your Honorable Sirs as follows:

That a law be enacted giving each and every Landless Indian of the State of Montana who has not received the recognition rights and privileges that were given to other tribes of American Indians who are now located throughout the United States of America; Recognition which has been denied many of these Indians in the past.

Respectfully submitted: Landless Indians - Tom Sangray, Chairman

RESOLUTION
Adopted February 19, 1952

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2543 by Senator McCarran and H. R. 6035 by Mr. Celler pertaining to proposed Amendments to U. S. Code entitled "Crimes and Criminal Procedure" with respect to the Powers of Law Enforcement Officers of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, has been read and carefully considered by the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board, and

WHEREAS, We are astounded that such legislation could appear in reality in any country other than Russia, and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation, fostered by the Indian Bureau, is such as to scorn the human dignity of American Indians and to permanently subject them to serfdom under dictatorial Indian Bureau regualtions, and

WHEREAS, such legislation would be completely contrary to the Constitution of the United States and the American way of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it Resolved that - - The Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board in Special Session assembled in Helena, Montana on February 18th, 1952 with a quorum present, hereby expresses unanimous and unalterable opposition to S. 2543 and H. R. 6035 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: Copies of this Resolution be immediately forwarded to Montana Congressional Delegation, the President of the United States, the United States Senate, and the House Judiciary Committees and respectfully pray that this proposed legislation be defeated and permanently eliminated as a future threat against the welfare and dignity of American Indians.

WHEREAS, by unanimous vote of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board a sub-committee on Reservation Health Problems and conditions is hereby appointed, and

WHEREAS, Section 6 of Article 5 of our Constitution and By-laws advises of the necessity to define functions and duties of appointed committees or boards,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the sub-committee above named shall be composed of Dave Higgins, Walter Morigeau and Ed Belgard with committee term to extend from this date until the next meeting of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board at which meeting said committee shall make full report and recommendations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said sub-committee is directed to function in conjunction with the Montana Co-Ordinator of Indian Affairs, Reservation Tribal Councils, Landless Indians, and others concerned.

MONTANA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 5
Introduced by Higgins

A MEMORIAL TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES SENATORS ZALES N. ECTON AND JAMES E. MURRAY AND TO THE HONORABLE

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS WESLEY A. D'EWART AND MIKE MANSFIELD, AND TO THE HONORABLE OSCAR L. CHAPMAN, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, REQUESTING THAT THE 82nd CONGRESS INTRODUCE AND PASS AN ACT ELIMINATING ALL PRESENT DISCRIMINATORY LAWS PERTAINING TO INDIANS; TRANSFER TO THE STATE OF MONTANA AND ITS SUBDIVISIONS CERTAIN ENUMERATED ACTIVITIES AND TRANSFER FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSES OF EXPEDITING THESE ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, the American Indians of Montana are now subjected to various discriminatory laws and practices administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, under which our first Americans are denied rights enjoyed by their fellow-citizens of other races; and

WHEREAS, the continuance of such discriminations is inconsistent with American ideals of democracy, freedom and equality, and

WHEREAS, the Indians of Montana have pleaded in vain with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the ending of such discriminations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the State of Montana(the Senate concurring), That we respectfully urge that the Congress of the United States eliminate, at least with respect to the Indians of this State, all existing Federal laws which discriminate against such Indians, and we specifically recommend as a step in the right direction, the prompt enactment of the House Resolution No. 1936 of the House of Representatives of the 82nd Congress of the United States; be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Interior is respectfully urged to see that promises made by the four Commissioners of Indian Affairs are actually carried out and that controls which hinder the right of Indian citizens to spend their own money, to lease their own lands, to hire their own attorneys, and to run their own businesses should be promptly eliminated; be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Congress and the Secretary of the Interior, in their respective fields of jurisdiction, to turn over to the State of Montana and its sub-divisions any of the following activities which, in the opinion of the Indian tribes concerned, can best be handled under agreements with the appropriate State authorities:

(1) Education;
(2) The administration of law and order (without prejudice to existing Indian rights);
(3) The management of reservation hospitals and health services;
(4) The maintenance of reservation roads;
(5) Resource management and agricultural extension work; be it further

RESOLVED, That the Congress is respectfully requested to authorize the transfer to the appropriate state, local or tribal authorities of funds for any of the foregoing purposes, not in excess of the average funds appropriated for such purposes during the past five years, whenever agreements satisfactory to the tribes concerned and to the appropriate state agencies have been concluded; be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be forwarded by the Secretary of State of the State of Montana to the Congress of the United States, the Honorable Oscar L. Chapman, Secretary of the Interior, the Honorable Senators Zales N. Ecton and James E. Murray, Senators from the State of Montana, the Honorable Wesley D'Ewart, Congressman from the Second Congressional District, and the Honorable Mike Mansfield, Congressman from the First Congressional District, and to each of the Indian tribes of the State of Montana.

During the time between the meetings of the Inter-Tribal Policy Board on February 19,1952 and June 4, 1952, Inter-Tribal Policy Board Member David Higgins from Cut Bank spent considerable time and effort in presenting a rehabilitation program to the United States Congress. Time was too short to formulate a program in detail,however,to acquaint Congress with the principles of this type of rehabilitation the following legislation was introduced into Congress:

H. R. 7715
82nd CONGRESS
2nd Session

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
May 5, 1952
Mr. D'Ewart (by request) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency
A BILL

AUTHORIZING THE RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION TO MAKE AVAILABLE A LOAN TO THE MONTANA STATE CO-ORDINATOR OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United State of America in Congress assembled, That the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is hereby authorized and directed to make available the sum of $1,000,000 as a loan to the Montana State Co-Ordinator of Indian Affairs for use by such Co-Ordinator as hereinafter provided. The loan shall be repaid to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation by the State of Montana not later than fifty years from the date of such loan and shall bear interest at the rate of 2 per centum per annum, payable annually.

SEC. 2. The loan provided for in section one may be used only by the Montana State Coordinator of Indian Affairs for the purpose of guaranteeing farm and livestock loans made to Indians of Montana by any recognized lending institution (including any such Federal agency) operating within the State of Montana.

SEC. 3 No loan guaranteed by the Co-Ordinator shall be for a period longer than five years on chattels and twenty years on real estate (and in no event longer than the fifty-year loan period), nor shall any such loan bear interest at a rate in excess of 8 per centum.

The above legislation is based on the following philosophy:

It is common criticism both on the floors of Congress and in our press that people of Indian blood are not using their resources to the fullest extent possible. This is entirely true and cannot be corrected until some means have been provided for people of Indian blood to obtain the necessary capital to start a suceessful enterprise. There have been a large number of studies made in regard to the utilization of Indian reservation resources. Invariably the conclusion states that progress is impossible until the individual has an enterprise big enough to be economically sound. In livestock this is considered to be at least 60 head of cows or 400 head of sheep with sufficient pasture and hay land to maintain this herd along with its offspring.

The Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board feels that a rehabilitation program on the state level would be less bureaucratic and could do a more effective job of serving the people. The closer the administration of the program is to the people the more effective it can become in serving the needs of the people. The machinery for handling such a program on the state level cannot be set up in detail until the federal program is established. The state program must naturally

fit itself into the federal statutes. For this reason Montana State corrective legislation will be introduced into next legislature when full details of the federal program can be studied.

The approach to Indian Rehabilitation in agriculture and business should be attempted on the state level. Considerable feeling among both white and Indian people can be found to support this point of view.

* * *

The Inter-Tribal Policy Board Meeting held June 4, 1952 in Helena at the State Capitol dealt mostly with problems of taxation on Indian Reservations, representation of Indians on Selective Service Boards in the various counties on reservations, and reports from Mr. Higgins and Mr. Yellowtail on federal legislation. Plans were made for the participation of various Indian groups at the dedication of the Indian Wing at the Montana State Tuberculosis Sanatarium at Galen, Montana. The following resolutions were adopted:

RESOLUTION ON DRAFT BOARDS ADOPTED BY THE MONTANA INTER-TRIBAL POLICY BOARD AT ITS MEETING IN HELENA, MONTANA, JUNE 4, 1952

WHEREAS, it should be the duty of every draft board whose field of operation covers and encompasses Indian communities and Reservations, to play fairly with the Indian population of Montana and exhibit no race discrimination towards them in the matter of draft inductions and wanted deferments of thier eligible young men for war duty in the Nation's Armed Forces and in which matter to date they have excelled in proportion to their population of all other race groups in the United States in the number of Fighting men sent to the Armed forces of our country and

WHEREAS, To insure a just, fair and equitable treatment of all Indian eligibles for induction into the armed forces of the United States, it obviously is necessary that the right of the Indians of Montana be recognized by the appointment of Indians to serve on each and every draft board whose field of operation encompasses Indian communities and reservations in Montana, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board meeting on the 4th day of June, 1952 at Helena, Montana that it petitions the Honorable John W. Bonner and Brig. General Mitchell that they use their high offices to correct wrongs which the Indians of Montana have suffered and been subjected to since the drafts of World War I, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board respectfully requests and urges the Honorable John W. Bonner and Brig. General Mitchell, Selective Service Director of Montana, to observe and act in accordance with the foregoing resolution.

RESOLUTION
Regarding Blackfeet Elections

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board as to the attempt of the Indian Bureau to emasculate and circumvent the Wheeler-Howard Act of Congress by holding an election on proposed amendments to the Blackfeet Tribal Constitution and attempting to prevent the Blackfeet Tribal Council from holding an election as provided by the Blackfeet Constitution, and

WHEREAS, we as representatives of the Montana Indian Tribes are shocked and outraged at the dictatorial methods and flouting of the law as passed by Congress, by the Indian Bureau and its employees, and

WHEREAS, the matter of the illegal election held by Superintendent Robertson is now before the Secretary of the Interior, Oscar Chapman and no decision has been forthcoming from the Secretary for more than 30 days, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Secretary Chapman be and is hereby urged to decide the matter promptly and in favor of the Blackfeet tribe, and that proper and severe disciplinary action be taken against the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Myers, Area Director Fickenger and Superintendent Guy Robertson for their illegal acts.

RESOLUTION ON LAND

WHEREAS, On March 30, 1952 a complete reversal of Indian Bureau policy in regard to Indian Lands was announced which new policy would deprive Indians and Indian Tribes of their lands, and

WHEREAS, The Indian Bureau is now charged with approval of all land transactions and the Bureau admits it is incompetent and is not performing its duty for which its employees are paid by the taxpayers in that Bureau officials claim that corruption and profiteering exists in various land transactions, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Indian lands be perserved for Indians and the Bureau be required by Congressional action, if necessary, to abandon and recind its policy and action of March 30th, 1952 in regard to Indian lands and that Bureau employees who permitted wrong doing, if any, in Indian land transactions be discharged as incompetent to hold their jobs and unfaithful in the performance of their duties.

RESOLUTION ON TAXATION

WHEREAS, responsible officials of the Indian Bureau have made statements for publication implying that Indians have not paid taxes in the past but that from now on Indians would have to pay taxrs, and thus have given the general public a false impression and

WHEREAS, for years Indians have been paying taxes on property owned by them not in a trust status and Indians have paid income tax on their earning not derived from trust or restricted properties, except oil and gas royalties on which Indian tribes have paid the net proceeds tax to the State of Montana, and

WHEREAS, Indians have long questioned the advisability of paying taxes when their tax money is used without their consent to support the Bureau of Indian Affairs and its dictatorial and self-perpetuating policies and programs, and

WHEREAS, tax liability of each Indian tribe and its individual members depend on the language of the several Treaties drawn by representatives of the United States Government who obtained ratification and acceptance thereof by the respective Tribal leaders and statements of the Billings Area Director wholly ignored the basic and fundamental Treaty provisions and rights of Indians,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the purpose and intent of this resolution to remind the Director of the Billings Area Office and all others concerned that directives, policies or regulations of the Indian Bureau cannot and must not be construed or interpreted as abrogations of existing treaties or laws of Congress.

* * *

A brief informal mee ting of the Inter-Tribal Policy Board was held August 19 by members who were passing through Helena to the dedication of the Henrietta Crackett Indian Wing of the Montana Tuberculosis Sanitarium,

August 20, 1952. Mr. Yellowtail reported on the planks of the major political parties dealing with problems of Indian people.

DEDICATION

Henrietta Crockett Indian Wing
Montana Tuberculosis Sanitarium
Galen, Montana
August 20, 1952
10:00 A.M.

History of the Indian Wing
by Henrietta Crockett

The dedication of this Indian wing today marks a high moment in my life, not because it is to bear my name - it would be far more fitting if it bore an Indian name in memory of Indian children who have gone to early graves stricken by the enemy, the name all Montana tribes give to tuberculosis. It is a high moment in my life because it marks a dream which began on Fort Belknap reservation 25 years ago when I held my first clinic and saw the heartbreaking evidence of what tuberculosis was doing to the first citizen of Montana - a disease they had never known until the white man came.

For many years I have carried on a labor of love to get hospitalization in Montana for the Indians. Today my gratitude goes out to the Montana Tuberculosis Association, all the men and women, the service clubs, the women's clubs of Montana, the congressmen, Gov. John. W. Bonner, and the Indian leaders who have kept faith through long years of hoping against hope that such a wing as this was possible. I can still see Chief Wades-in-the-Water and Theodore Last Star pleading before legislature, and I hope today the Wades-in-the-Water, who three years ago went to the Happy Hunting Ground, is smoking a pipe of contentment as he watches the doors of equal chance open and young men and women from his own tribe enter to find their health again.

This is a dream come true that grew as I visited the Crows, Northern Cheyennes, the Flatheads, the Blackfeet and the Rocky Boys - why should the first citizens of the State have to leave their beloved mountains to receive the treatment white residents could get in Montana. There was opposition, prejudice, misunderstandings to overcome, but we kept on believing. At long last the white man has heeded to the cry of a broken people.

PROGRAM

Invocation	Rev. Harrington
Welcome Song	Blackfeet Indians
Address	D'Arcy McNickle, Bureau of Indian Affairs (Member of Flathead Indian Tribe)
Introduction of Guests	Thomas Main, President Inter-Tribal Policy Board
Introduction of Dr. F. I. Terrill	Montana State Tuberculosis Sanitarium
Introduction	Pres. Mark Harrington, Nat. Tub. Assoc. by John Harrison, Pres. Mont. Nat. Tub. Assoc.
Dedication	Hon. John W. Bonner, Governor State of Montana Board of Examiners
Introduction of	Mrs. Henrietta Crockett
Acceptance	Mr. David Higgins, Blackfeet Reservation

Benediction Mr. James Archdale, Fort Peck Reservation
Master of Ceremonies Stephen DeMers, Flathead Reservation
2:30 A. M. Parade will be held on the streets of Deer Lodge, Montana
4:00 P.M. -- Barbecued Buffalo Feed
Visitors are invited to visit the Indian encampment North of Deer Lodge. Indian ceremonies will be held.
Pageant - Discovery of Gold in Montana - At Deer Lodge Fairgrounds at 7:30 P. M. This program centers around the Flathead Indians.

Sincere thanks are extended to all stations of the Montana Mutual Network for theri state-wide broadcast of this historic program.

GUESTS

Inter -Tribal Policy Board
Mr. Thomas Main, President, Fort Belknap
Mrs. Freda Beazley, Secretary, Fort Peck
Mr. Robert Yellowtail, Vice President, Crow
Mr. Dave Higgins, Blackfeet
Mr. Leo Kennerly, Blackfeet
Mr. Stephen DeMers, Flathead
Mr. Walter McDonald, Flathead
Mr. Jasper Long, Crow
Mr. John Capture, Fort Belknap
Mrs. Dolly Akers, Fort Peck
Mr. E. Belgard, Landless
Mr. Tom Sangray, Landless
Mr. John S. Timber, Northern Cheyenne
Mr. Rufus Wallowing, Northern Cheyenne
Mr. Joe Cochrane, Rocky Boy
Mr. Four Souls, Rocky Boy
Mr. John Manning, Fort Peck

Mr. Mark Harrington, President
National Tuberculosis Association
Mr. John Casebolt, Executive Secretary
Montana Tuberculosis Association

Over 200 people of Indian blood participated in these ceremonies as well Hon. Mike Mansfield, United States Congressman, Mr. F. M. Haverland, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other interested guests.

* * *

The next meeting of the Inter-Tribal Policy Board was held in Browning, Montana on October 18 and 19, 1952, at the public school in this community. Many of the candidates for political office appeared before the group and spoke at some length in regard to problems of Indian people and a general discussion followed. The Withdrawal program of the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs was discussed at some length. The general feeling of the group was expressed by the Flathead members of the Inter-Tribal Policy Board. The Flathead Reservation is reported to be the first Reservation in Montana scheduled for a withdrawal program. The Flatheads are neither for noragainst the program until they know in more detail what the program includes. So far all the statements dealt with generalities and there was no concrete guiding principle for the Tribal Council or the Policy Board to base an opinion upon. The Flatheads planned to prepare a withdawal program of their own and place it alongside the Federal program for comparisonand be the basis for a discussion. Mr. De Mers expressed

the general feeling of the group that the group were like a child in the dark. The child is afraid because he cannot see and so it is with Indian people, they are afraid because they cannot see what lies before them. He urged each group to set up a program better than that of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, covering such areas as Education, Health, Rehabilitation, Treaty Rights and Claims. Mr. Yellowtail spoke at length in regard to taxation and the coming election.

The next meeting of the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board was held November 24, 1952, in Helena, Montana. The meeting was called to consider the problem created by the untimely passing of the Chairman, Thomas Main at his home near Hays, Montana. Chairman Thomas Main was highly respectdd throughout the length and breadth of the State of Montana for his wise counsel and forceful leadership. Thomas Main had been suffering from a heart ailment for sometime and stricken November 9, 1952. The following resolution was adopted by the Inter- Tribal Policy Board:

MONTANA INTER-TRIBAL POLICY BOARD

Resolution adopted - November 24, 1952 and mailed to Mrs. Tom Main

WHEREAS: The passing of our friend Thomas Main is so very deeply felt and regretted, and

WHEREAS: His long and devoted work for and on behalf of Montana Indians will be forever remembered, and

WHEREAS: His death will leave a niche unlikely to be filled inour progress, and

WHEREAS: Thomas Main was loved and respected by all who had the privilege of knowing and working with him,

NOW TEEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board conveys its most sincere condolences to the widow and family of our late Chairman Thomas Main, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be forwared to every Tribal Council of Montana, and further that this resolution be prominently displayed as a rememberance to a genuine gentleman --

Thomas Main.

Mr. Yellowtail was elevated from the Vice-Chairmanship to the Chairmanship of the Inter-Tribal Policy Board. This meeting further adipted a resolution pertaining to the appointments to the Commissionership of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Mrs. Beazley and Mr. Yellowtail reported on the meeting of the National Congress of American Indians at Denver, Colorado, the previous week. The following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION

Pertaining to the selection of a new Commissioner of Indian Affairs

WHEREAS; The National Congress of American Indians at Denver, Colorado, on November 14, 1952, adopted a resolution stating an endorsement for a Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and

WHEREAS, The Republican party in its Chicago platform declares that when consideration is given to the selection of an Indian Commissioner, the leaders of the Indian people will be consulted and advised before such selection and nomination shall be made, and

WHEREAS, in the absence of such notification by President -Elect Dwight D. Eisenhower, or his representatives, the action of the National Congress of American Indians seems premature and hasty, and

WHEREAS, It is very doubtful if those tribes not represented nor present at the Denver Conference would be willing to be bound by the action of the Denver convention of the National Congress of American Indians, and

WHEREAS, In Montana there are seven tribes totaling 22,000 Indians who were not represented at the Denver Conference who also are vitally interested in the person to be nominated to be Indian Commissioner, and who also wish to be heard when the time is officially announced for the selection of the man to be Indian Commissioner, and

WHEREAS, Only 30 of the more than 100 identifiable tribes of Indians were represented at the above mentioned Denver meeting, which means that roughly one-third of the total number has made a selection, as is herein pointed out, without consulting the majority two-thirds which did not attend the Denver Conference, and took no part in its deliberations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board composed of members duly elected and delegated by their respective tribes of Indians, residing in the State of Montana and speaking for their respective tribes, hereby respectfully petition, implore and advise President Elect Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay, that before they accept any suggestions from any fraction of the Indian population of the United States on the recommendation of who shall be Commissioner of Indian Affairs, that those groups or individuals who do so be fully authorized to do by the Tribal Groups or State Groups such as our Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board, and wishes to make it unmistakably clear that we desire to cooperate to the utmost with President-Elect Eisenhower and his appointees in formulating and carrying out programs that are beneficial to American Indians.

Mr. Yellowtail extended an invitation to members to participate in a meeting of Northwest Indian leaders in Billings, Montana, November 28 and 29, as guest of Mr. Kenneth Simmons, Attorney at Law, and representing a large number of tribes in the Northwest. The meeting also considered recommendations for the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and decided to request an interview with Hon. Douglas McKay, Secretary of Interior Appointee to discuss the wishes of Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board in regard to the selection of a new Commissioner of Indian Affairs. It was moved and seconded that the Chairman appoint a committee to see Governor McKay. Those appointed by the Chairman were Mr. De Mers, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Gene Fisher, and Mrs. Dolly Akers. In accordance with the Constitution and the By-laws of the Policy Board, the following are set down as the specific points to be brought out by this committee (1) To meet with the Secretary designate, Governor of Oregon, and to find out from him, if at all possible what his views are on the administration of Indian Affairs that he will propose to the New Commissioner of Indian Affairs. (2) Who he has in mind, if he has anyone in mind, for Commissioner of Indian Affairs. (3) The committee should be prepared to fully inform Mr. McKay of the purpose of the Policy Board, and explain to him our desire to cooperate and respectfully request an audience at the time the appointment is made. (4) It is to be brought out that the Montana Indians do not desire the retention of Dillon Myers in any capacity on the Bureau.

The Inter Tribal Policy Board also requested a report from the State Board of Health on the investigation of the need for a hospital at Lame Deer, Montana. The following report was submitted by Dr. G. D. Carlyle Thompson, M.D., Executive Officer of the Montana State Board of Health.

MONTANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
Helena, Montana

Report by G. D. Carlyle Thompson, M. D. (Executive Officer)
of Visit to Northern Cheyenne Reservation - March 11, 1952
December 1, 1952

TO: Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board, upon request

Background

I visited the Northern Cheyenne Reservation on March 11, 1952 accompanied by Dr. Paul R. Ensign, Director of the Division of Child Health Services of the State Board of Health, and Dr. Henry Kassell, of the United States Public Health Service, who is in charge of medical services for Indian Reservations in the Billings area.

The visit resulted from frequent requests from Mr. Rufus Wallowing to visit the reservation, and because of the interest of others, including Dr. Ensign, who had been studying the problems of child health at the reservation.

Conferences were held at the reservation with Mr. Rufus Wallowing and other members of the Tribal Council, with the Superintendent of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, the Public Health Nurse at Lame Deer, members of the hospital staff at the Crow Hospital, members of the Big Horn County Health Department staff which serves a small portion of the Cheyenne Reservation, and an inspection was made of both the Crow Hospital and the hospital building at Lame Deer.

Prior to this time, Dr. Ensign had made extensive studies, gathering much detailed information about the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and its health problems.

Conclusion and Summary

The summary and the discussion which follows reflect my own conclusion, after careful consideration of all the information that was available. However, Dr. Ensign concurs with the general conclusion. They have not been presented to anyother group for comment or concurrence.

There are five major conclusions, as follows:

(1) Secure four physicians at the Crow Hospital with an appropriate representation from the most suitable specialties to serve the two Reservations for medical care, including the holding of appropriate out-patient clinics, in-patient hospital service, and emergency ambulance service.

(2) Re-naming the Crow Hospital in such a way that it is not identified solely with the Crow Agency, and organizing the hospital staff, so that the Superintendent and medical director of the hospital is not solely responsible to the Crow Agency Superintendent.

(3) Establish a hospital board or committee composed of Cheyenne and Crows who can meet with the Hospital Superintendent and medical director at regular intervals. In this way, complaints could be discussed and reviewed, and interpretations and understandings secured.

(4) Establish a full-time district health department in Big Horn and Rosebud counties, including the two Indian Reservations under one full-time health officer with an appropriate staff. In this way, the public health department can serve both Indian and white population on the basis of need and without regard to creed or color.

(5) Develop a program of health education which takes into consideration the cultural development and background, particularly of the Cheyenne Indians. This is so basically important to the solving of the whole Cheyenne problem that it would seem justified, no matter how great the cost, at this time, for the United States Government to undertake this program, for , in the long run, it would be economy.

Only Items (4) and (5) of the above conclusions come within the province of State Board of Health responsibility. We have been attempting to do something about both of these items. We have been working with the United States Indian Service, with the Rosebud County commissioners, the Big Horn County Board of Health, and County Commissioners, with a view to developing the first full-time district health department in the State of Montana. This plan has not yet been consummated, but financing of it appears to be possible, and there is genuine interest on the part of all concerned. (Note: This has since been accomplished with the establishment of the District Health Department, July 1, 1952).

The State Board of Health has also been developing a program of health education, based on the Cheyenne Reservation needs, and within their scope of understanding. We are seeking a grant of funds over a five to seven year period from some of the private foundat ions in the United States with the view of carrying out this program. Unfortunately, we are unable to report success, but we are still in negotiation with one private foundation.

General Discussion

It was quite clear from the attitude of Mr. Wallowing and other Indians that they wanted the hospital at Lame Deer opened. After some discussion with them, pointing up the advantages and disadvantages of receiving medical care from the Cheyenne Reservation through a hospital at Lame Deer versus the hospital at the Crow Agency, I believe they began to have a different understanding of the problem.

Fortunately, the Indian medical service staff at Crow had recently been increased from two to three physicians with the third physician serving regular clinics on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, holding

holding them at four or five locations during each week. Mr. Wallowing himself and others were well pleased with this development, and while still waiting to see how it would eventually work out, I believe they were at the time well satisfied.

It was stressed that, with the hospital open, there would be only one physician on the Cheyenne Reservation. Therefore, there would be times when the Cheyennes would be without medical care, for several reasons: (1) there would be lapses in physician employment; (2) there would be his time off duty, his vacation period, and periods when he would be ill. He would also be limited in the kind of medical care he could give because he would not be qualified to handle all problems. Many persons would still need to go off the reservation for care.

It was pointed out that a hospital staff at Crow with regularly conducted out-patient clinics on the Cheyenne Reservation would permit physician coverage at all times and would assure within the group of physicians at the Crow Hospital a variety of training that would more fully meet all types of medical and surgical problems. With the physicians in a group, it would be possible to have some of them have some degree of specialized training.

There was some complaint about the inadequacy of the size of the Crow Hospital. This, we investigated, and it does appear that at times during the year there may be a shortage of beds at the Crow Hospital. However, at most, an additional 8 beds at the Crow Hospital should meet even these peak periods of demand. It is a question in my mind, however, whether the time is now here for the proposal for such an addition to the Crow Hospital. It requires further analysis and possibly through a better educational program, hospitalization of all Indians at the Crow Hospital might be arranged in such a way that these peak demands may not arise.

It must be recognized that in every community there are times when there are demands for hospitalization in excess of the hospital beds usually available. Therefore, as in every community, the Crow Hospital and the two communities served by it must accept temporary measures for selection of cases for hospitalization in line with human need. In these instances it is not, therefore, always possible to admit everyone to the hospital at the moment they think that they should be admitted.

Based on experience gained in the Board's hospital construction program, it is my conclusion that to place the hospital building in Lame Deer in proper order for operation would involve large cost - more than $100,000, and even then it would not be good. The Crow Hospital is, on the other hand, a building of modern hospital design and well equipped.

In connection with the Lame Deer Hospital, it was also pointed out that great difficulty would be encountered in securing and retaining personnel for the hospital operation. This has already proved to be the case during the short time that the hospital operation was attempted. The point was further emphasized when, in talking with the new physician at the Crow Hospital, he indicated that if he had been

assigned to Lame Deer rather than Crow, he would not have accepted such an assignment, and if hrequired of him, he would resign. At the same time, he was quite willing to serve the Cheyenne Reservation by holding out-patient clinics daily throughout the Reservation, and by arranging his time for proper care of jpatients hospitalized at the Crow Hospital.

There is in operation a satisfactory ambulance system between the Cheyenne Reservation and the Crow Hospital. This should be maintained, and with the holding of daily clinics on the Cheyenne Reservation, needless trips to the Crow Hospital would be avoided and persons needing ambulance service to the Crow Hospital would receive it. People would either have ambulance service because of an emergency, or because upon request of a physician at one of the daily clinics. People of course would see physicians more frequently, and thus there would be fewer emergencies.

I learned of complaints regarding inadequate care of Cheyennes, or of deaths due to lack of hospitalization. There may have been justification for some of these complaints in the past, for the medical staff at the Crow Hospital was down to one doctor for a long time, and not more than two doctors until recently. Obviously, with 4,000 Crows and 2,000 Cheyennes, it is impossible for that number of physicians to render complete and adequate medical care. In this situation, physicains must remain in the hospital where they can serve the greatest number of people in the shortest possible time.

However, I learned of a death, in the week of my visit, in a family where hospitalization did not occur until the last moment. The infant was born dead in this case. The public Health Nurse at Lame Deer advised me that she had been urging the mother to go to the Crow Hospital for prenatal care over a period of six to eight months. It was only in the end that her husband ttok her to the hospital because of illness. From a review of the medical record, it is quite clear to me that the baby had died possibly two days before the mother left the Cheyenne Reservation to go to the Crow Hospital. This case points up the problem of educating these people to accepting and utilizing good medical care. This is not in criticism of them, but is in recognition of their need for education, on a scale which far surpasses almost any other community that I have observed.

G. D. Carlyle Thompson, M. D.
Executive Officer
Montana State Board of Health

Prepared for distribution
upon request
Montana Inter-Tribal Council
~~December 1,~~ 1952

The problems confronting Montana Indians are briefly presented below:

1. Education

Due to tax-exempt Indian lands on reservations the finance of public schools on Indian reservations presents a very definite problem. The United States Bureau of Indian Affairs is committed to a program of financial support for education of children with one-fourth degree of Indian blood in public schools districts with tax-exempt land. A dual system of education has existed for some time in most of the western Indian country. The United States Bureau of Indian Affairs has operated its own schools in many areas where public schools are not available. The program of transferring federally operated schools to the states has been gradual and has made commendable progress in the integration of Indian people into the way of life of the community where they live. Education is the stepping stone to the solution of all the other problems confronting people of Indian blood such as health and economic rehabilitation. The funds drived from the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs for the education of children are used to the maintenance and operation of the schools, the lunch program in schools and transportation system for rural school children of one-fourth degree Indian blood. The transfer of this activity from the federal government to the state has met with the general approval of Indian people because the local school is one of the most democratic institutions we have.

The areas needing further improvement in the field of education are advanced education beyond the level of the High School, on the job training, and school building facilities. Scholarships for advanced training are sorely needed. Montana provides scholarships for twelve students each year who attend one of the units of the Greater University of Montana. These scholarships exempt students of Indian blood from the payment of tuition while attending any of the units of the Greater University. A bill before the last session of Congress would have provided funds for on-the job-training but failed to pass. This is a meritorious program and will do much to break down the isolation of the reservation and give the enterprising youth of Indian blood some security while in the period of transition from the reservation to some new community. The school building program on Indian Reservations is in a very deplorable condition. An effort has been made to include Indian Reservation School Districts under the provisions of the Federal Law No. 815 for school building construction in federally impacted areas. This has been only partially successful due to the peculiarities of the law which measures the entitlement to the funds by the growth in enrollment from the date of 1939. Few school districts on Indian Reservations show sufficient growth in enrollments since 1939 unless there has been consolidation of school districts the creation of new school districts, or the closing of federal schools. The contention is made that public Law 815 was intended to cover School Districts with tax-exempt Indian lands but is so written that it discriminates against the most needy cases. The federal impact in the majority of cases existed before the measuring date of 1939. The following illustration gives the picture very completely:

AN ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC LAW 815 AS APPLIED TO
LAME DEER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6

Lame Deer School District No. 6 lies wholly within the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana. It is also the headquarters for the administrative unit of the Office of Indian Affairs.

Total area of the School District106,380 acres

Taxable land in School District 160 acres (Townsite of Lame Deer)

Taxable Valuation $60,005.00

Taxable Valuation $60,005.00

Bonding Capacity $9,000.00

Condition of school plant and equipment.

The school is housed in two buildings. One has three classrooms and the other two classrooms. The one building is a distinct fire hazard. The corridor is three feet wide. The toilets in this building are makeshift affairs and would never be approved by the Department of Health. The furnace is of the "hot air" type and is a rather makeshift affair, that has been extended on several occasions to correct defects in the system. It is very definite a fire hazard which can happen at any time. The newer building with two classrooms has an additional room which has recently been built but is not utilized because the present furnace cannot be used for heating. The room is awaiting the construction of a chimney and the installation of a stove. This building does not have adequate toilet facilities. The school does not have a Shop room, a utility room for use of programs, physical education and music.

Eligibility Under Public Law 815

The children enrolled in the school are 95% class A. children.
There are 100 A. D. A. children this year.
The average daily attendance for several years is as follows:

1916-17---20	1928-29---56.5	1940-41---124.8
1917-18---26	1929-30---52.1	1941-42---127.3
1918-19---23	1930-31---49	1942-43----93.2
1919-20---	1931-32---50.7	1943-44---100.0
1920-21---16	1932-33---75	1944-45---112.1
1921-22---27	1933-34---82.5	1945-46---127.6
1922-23---15	1934-35---89.1	1946-47---130.7
1923-24---24	1935-36---87	1947-48---130.6
1924-25---35.5	1936-37---87.2	1948-49---110.8
1925-26---60	1937-38--102.1	1949-50---102.6
1926-27---50.5	1938-39--118.6	1950-51---100.0
1927-28---55.4	1939-40--140.3	

If the base for estimating entitlement is figured from the increase in attendance since 1939 it can readily be seen that the Lame Deer School District No. 6 will have no entitlement under Public Law 815. Here is a school District with 99% eligibility under the law with no entitlement because of an arbitrary technique in measuring entitlement. The framers of the law were definitely unaware of the problems of Indian Reservations. The date of the creation of the reservation should be used for the measure of the entitlement .

The law in its definitions states - "Federal property means real property which is owned by the United States or is leased by the United States and which is not subject to taxation by any state or any political subdivision of a state or by the United States for Individual Indians or Indian Tribes and real property held by individual Indians or Indian Tribes which is subject to restriction on alienation imposed by the United States."

2. Welfare and Health

The Welfare program in the State of Montana extends into the areas of dependent children, old age, and physical disability without discrimination against people of Indian blood. The general welfare program which is supported by the property tax is not extended to people of Indian blood unless there is a contribution to the welfare fund by the Tribal Council of the reservation in the county. People of Indian blood are eligible for unemployment benefits of the

State Employment Commissions. These programs are generally used and are being administered without discrimination. Bureaucracy is reduced to a minimum and the administration is quite efficient.

There is a trend in the field of welfare which will be expanded in the future. This covers the care of orphan children now enrolled in the Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding schools. In several states these institutions have been operated as orphanages and tend to retard integration due to the segregation. Foster home programs to take care of these children are being used more generally than in the past. Federal funds for this purpose have been made available to several states. This program is not functioning in Montana as yet. One of the obstacles is the law which prohibits the adoption of child by a family from another race. This situation should be corrected by our legislature. The Federal Boarding School Orphanage could well cease to function and this money used for higher education of children of Indian blood to develop leaders and promote better integration, in communities away from reservations.

The health programs on various reservations in many instances are a source of irritation and dissatisfaction among people of Indian blood. It is extremely difficult to obtain competent trained personnel for this work and some of the living situations are not very attractive, due to isolation. In one area the Indian Reservation has been brought under the state and county public health unit. This is a very desirable program because it puts the health program on the community level and the dual health system of the county and Bureau of Indian Affairs is eliminated. A dual health system results in friction and is one of the causes of discrimination in a community. Montana boasts of one co-operative health unit where two counties and two reservations co-operated with the Montana State Board of Health for a complete Public Health program. Further steps in this direction will gradually improve health conditions on our reservations. As education progresses and as the standard of living improves with economic improvement there will be faster improvement in health conditions.

During the past year the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board participated in the dedication of the Montana Tuberculosis Sanitarium at Galen, Montana. This wing provides for 100 beds in the hospital for people of Indian blood, and is entirely under the supervision of the State of Montana. This addition to the hospital was financed through federal and state appropriations and will provide the facilities and care needed to combat Tuberculosis which has been so prevalent among people of Indian blood. The efforts of the people of Montana in this direction are bearing fruit and doing much to raise the health level among people of Indian blood. The best progress in health is made when all health activities are placed on a state level and is uniform for all in the community.

The Inter-Tribal policy Board has taken an active interest to improve the health program on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. A splendid hospital building on this reservation has been closed and the 2,000 people on this reservation are without the services of a resident doctor. All health is administered through the Crow Reservation Hospital at Crow Agency which in some instances is one hunderd miles away. This travel is a tremendous burden upon the people in this area and the people feel it is dicriminatory. The Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board is committed to support the efforts of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation to obtain better health facilities and a better health program. The report of the Montana State Board of Health supports, in part, this contention of the Inter-Tribal Policy Board who feel that the present program of the Health Department of the Bureau of Indian Affairs provides sub-standard health facilities for the people on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

3. Rehabilitation

Economic rehabilitation will make the biggest contribution to the improvement of the standard of living among people of Indian blood. Such a program is absolutely

essential if the Indian reservations are to be used to their maximum capacity and the resources be made available to the people of Indian blood. Many uniformed critics make scathing remarks of the lack of utilization of resources on Indian reservations. There could be many more ranching enterprises among people of Indian blood than there are if assistance were provided for the start of such an enterprise. Financial capital is necessary to provide housing, machinery, and cattle for such an enterprise. Until these are provided it is absolutely impossible for people of Indian blood to get a start in these enterprises and become independent self-sustaining citizens. The federal rehabilitation programs in the past have been too meager and too small to make any marked progress.

Mr. David Higgins, member of the Montana State Legislature, and the Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board urged Congress to pass the necessary legislation to provide funds for economic rehabilitation through local banks to people of Indian blood on much the same program used for World War II veterans. Such a bill was introduced into the last session of Congress and has a great deal of merit because it is the same institution that finances all enterprises in the community. It places all financial activity of the community on the same footing. This bill along with thousands of others failed to get consideration during the closing days of Congress when the rush for adjournment was eminent. The Higgins plan would bring this one phase of economic rehabilitation down to the state level and it is felt that the program would be administered more efficiently and fairly on this level in the same manner that education welfare and health are being administered.

The present land program on Indian reservations is being administered in such a manner that it hampers the rehabilitation among the Indians themselves. The sale of lands is being administered under the supervised sale program. The negotiated sale does not have much chance for approval. The surpervised sale requires the payment of cash money and people of Indian blood do not have sources of credit open to them for the consummation of usual cash land sales. The sales of Indian land are going mostly to non-Indian people for this reason. The negotiated sale on a contract basis should be made available to people of Indian blood. This is an extremely controversial matter because the status of tax-exempt lands enters into the picture. The rehabilitation program should not be retarded however by this controversy. The controversy over tax-exempt lands is a matter for the courts to settle because it involves the old treaty obligations of the United States government with the Indians and is an entirely separate issue from the problems of rehabilitation. The negotiated land sale is the type of business arrangement used by citizens of the United States in practically all of their real estate transactions and when this activity is denied people of Indian blood they are being denied rights and privileges granted every other citizen in the United States.

4. Law and Order

The problem of law and order on reservations is due entirely to the federal laws which give the federal government jurisdiction over the ten major crimes. This creates a dual status for law and order on Indian reservations. The result is confusion and also results in much discrimination and ill feeling on the local level. The liquor law which is entirely under federal administration results in no law enforcement. One reservation is reported to have approximately three dozen bootleggers which sell liquor at exhorbitant prices to people of Indian blood. Another reservation reports that the sale of hair tonic, lotions, and extracts are many times above normal for similar communities away from reservations. The solution of this situation seems to be the placement of all law and order on the same level as other citizens in the community. Congress has had many plans for the solution of the law and order problem and the plans which have the most favorable consideration are the plans which place all law and order on the state and community level. This will tend to remove much of the ill feeling and discrimination on the local level which results from this duel standard of behavior and citizenship.

Conclusion

The question that arises in the minds of the people of the State of Montana naturally will be - Is the Inter-Tribal Policy Board contributing toward the solution of the problems confronting the Indian? What are the objectives of the Indian people? What are they striving for? The answer comes from the Indian people themselves. The older people want reasonable security. They measure security in terms of therr past experiences and hesitate to accept promises because their history is full of broken promises. The younger people however want their security through integration and opportunity on the same basis as their white neighbor. The closer that government is brought to the people the more democratic it becomes and less bureaucratic it is. The need for duplicated services is past. The use of duplicated services like one health program for the Indian and one for the white people in the same community retards integration and causes segregation and discrimination. The State of Montana has a big contribution to make in the integration of people of Indian blood and will do the job in a more democratic manner than the Federal government. It must be kept in mind that so long as the Treaty Rights give tax-exemption to lands belonging to Indian people the Federal government has a responsibility for financing a portion of the cost of the government supported by property taxation. This applies to schools, health, law enforcement, highways, and welfare. The young people of today are the leaders of tomorrow. The program should point in their direction.

Respectfully submitted

K. W. Bergan, Co-Ordinator
Indian Affairs